Though the notices for consideration and passing were given in the Budget Session, 2000 and Monsoon Session 2000, the Bill did not come up for consideration and passing in that House due to absence of consensus on the issue. Meanwhile, the Election Commission of India in an all party meeting called on 29.4.2000, among other proposals for electoral reforms, discussed the subject of 'Representation of Women in Parliament and State Legislatures'. The proposal mooted by the Commission, which envisaged that the parties will put up the minimum agreed percentage of women candidates in order to continue to retain their recognition with the Election Commission, was also not able to generate the consensus. In order to hold discussion on the provisions of the aforesaid Bill, the Bill was listed for consideration and passing in that House on 21.12.2000 and 22.12.2000 during the Winter Session, 2000, but could not be considered. Thus the Government made sincere efforts to debate and discuss the Bill in the Houses of Parliament and to evolve consensus among all the Political Parties. However, consensus has continued to elude. The Government has done its duty by introducing the necessary legislation and it has an open mind on any suggestions which may come from the Hon'ble Members.

Setting up of Welfare Fund for Lawyers

1073. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a welfare fund for lawyers in distress;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) by when this fund is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The matter concerning setting up of a welfare fund for lawyers is under consideration of the Government. It is, however, difficult to indicate any definite time-frame within which the said fund may be set up, since the same involves various steps, including inter-departmental consultation.

Fast Track Exit Scheme

1074. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Fast Track Exit Scheme of the Company Law Board has turned out to be a failure, even after extending several times;

(b) whether it is a fact that out of more than 8,000 companies gone into oblivion in the eastern part of the country, only 1072 opted for the FTES;

(c) whether the failure of the FTES is attributed to its bad timing as it was floated just after the Company Law Settlement Scheme (CLSS); and

(d) what steps are being taken to track down the vanished companies and initiate legal action against them?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In eastern Region 1334 companies have opted for the Scheme. As per our records 91598 companies are registered with the Registrar of Companies in the Eastern Region.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Non-Banking Financial Companies are governed by RBI. Monitoring of the working of all listed companies that come with public issue vests in SEBI / Stock Exchanges. Only 24 companies have been identified as non-traced companies out of 142 companies identified by SEBI as vanishing companies and Registrar of Companies have been instructed to initiate action under section 433 / 439 of Companies Act.

Reconstitution of Hindi Salahkar Samiti

1075. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) when was Hindi Salahkar Samiti re-constituted recently in his Ministry;

(b) the number of sittings of the Samiti held during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the efforts made to conduct meetings regularly?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Hindi Salahkar Samiti in the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs was reconstituted on 11.7.2000.

(b) and (c) In the years 1998 and 1999, sittings of Hindi Salahkar Samiti could not be held because the reconstitution of the Samiti was under process. In the year 2000, the meeting of the Samiti was held on 4.10.2000.